

the city of El Paso, Texas, will host the El Paso Quadricentennial Festival. This festival is an international celebration, bringing together representatives from Spain, Mexico and other nations around the world to join in celebrating the 400th anniversary of the expedition of the Spanish explorer, Don Juan de Onate, through the Southwest.

His exploration began in January of 1598, when he and 400 other men and women traveled from Mexico through the present day El Paso, Texas. After numerous hardships during their journey, the expedition arrived along the banks of the Rio Grande River in April of 1598.

In gratitude for surviving their difficult travel and finding water along the Rio Grande, they observed a feast and celebrated with local Indians. This historical event is considered the first Thanksgiving, which occurred 22 years before the pilgrims landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for our Nation to recognize this 400th anniversary. I am proud that El Paso is hosting this International Commemoration, as it enhances our country's understanding of the extensive influence of the Spanish language and culture on our heritage and origins of this Nation.

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CONGRESS NEEDS TO STAND FIRM AGAINST THE WHITE HOUSE ON FREE NEEDLE PROGRAM

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, many people remember the President's Surgeon General claiming that the answer to youth violence was safer guns and safer bullets; that the answer to sexual promiscuity among America's youth is condoms in schools. Now we have the answer to the escalating drug problem in America coming out of the White House, free needles to heroin addicts. Imagine that, Mr. Speaker, government-subsidized free needles to heroin addicts.

I submit the following: Any President who supports and would promote the subsidization of free needles to heroin addicts is just as guilty as any drug pusher or any drug user who causes death and destruction among America's communities today.

This level of social decay is unacceptable. This Congress needs to stand firm against the White House. The partnership for a Drug-Free America has met its match. The White House and the heroin industry formed the partnership for free drugs in America. Common sense needs to rule the day. We need to stand firm.

In a minute another member of the President's party is going to step to the microphone, and I want to ask directly, is he going to stand with Americans against this free needle exchange

program, or is he going to talk about something else today?

THE PEOPLE STILL WANT COMPREHENSIVE CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, law enforcement in my district supports needle exchange.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out that the majority party controls this House. This is the people's House. This is where people's voices can be heard, because everybody here has to be elected. We cannot run away from that responsibility.

When the Democrats controlled this House, we passed out several times, three times, in fact, campaign finance reform, comprehensive campaign finance reform. The last of those bills to reach the President's desk was vetoed by President Bush. The people still want comprehensive campaign finance reform. Their pressure now gives this House a second chance, after the leadership orchestrated a defeat by a two-thirds vote and by scheduling it on a day when one of the Members, a former Member, had a funeral.

So, Mr. Speaker, I ask Members to keep watching. Will we get a comprehensive campaign reform or will we see another orchestrated defeat?

PAY-GO MUST GO

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about another ridiculous Washington budget rule called pay-go. This rule promotes big government spending while Americans pay taxes, higher taxes, as a matter of fact. Under pay-go, if we eliminated every welfare big government program, we could not give any of those savings back to the American people in the form of tax relief because of our own rules. It means we have to raise taxes to lower taxes. We have to change our rules.

Yesterday the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. J.D. HAYWORTH) and I introduced a bill just to do that. We must be able to cut big government spending, get Washington out of Americans' lives, and give the money back to the American people. After all, it is your dollars.

It is wrong that we cannot, for example, cut a \$3 million TV documentary on infrastructure awareness and use that same money to eliminate the marriage penalty tax. Do Members not think families are more important than welfare government programs?

Pay-go is a stumbling block to good government. It must go.

COMMEMORATING FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

(Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend an extraordinary community and its school. Frostburg State University in Frostburg, Maryland, celebrates its 100th anniversary this Sunday.

Frostburg State University began as a community dream. Actually, it was the community coal miners' dream. It was a dream that all parents dream for their children: a better life than theirs. They knew the key to this dream was education.

These concerned parents made a deal with the State legislature. The deal? If the coal miners could raise the money to buy the land for a State normal school, the General Assembly would appropriate funds for the buildings. These parents literally went door-to-door collecting money from their neighbors to keep their end of the deal. In April of 1898, the General Assembly of Maryland appropriated the funds for Maryland Normal School No. 2, which was built and opened its doors to 57 students.

Today, Frostburg State University enrolls more than 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students and helps tens of thousands of dreams come true. Congratulations, Frostburg State University.

WE CAN TRUST AMERICANS TO DECIDE ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would like to respond to the disingenuous statements made by liberal colleagues on the other side of the aisle. The other side talks as if one side of the aisle is on the side of the angels and supports campaign finance reform and the other side is against campaign finance reform. How ironic that the side that made a mockery of campaign finance reform laws in the 1996 elections now feels qualified to adopt a holier-than-thou attitude on this issue.

The truth is that the reforms that they are seeking are not even constitutional, which I guess is not surprising, given that post-sixties liberals are no longer champions of free speech. The liberals want to limit political speech. We do not. I think the American people are well qualified to decide this issue, once they know the facts.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT LEADS TO A BETTER AMERICA

(Mr. NEUMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1